



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

VIA EMAIL

October 22, 2013

Jason Smathers
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 6781
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: OIG-2014-00003

Dear Mr. Smathers:

This is in response to your letter dated October 21, 2013, which was received by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the same date. In your letter, you request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552: a log of all FOIA requests made in fiscal year 2013.

The OIG has assigned your FOIA request the number OIG-2014-00003. Please use this number in all future correspondence concerning your request. Your letter states that you request a fee waiver for this request, and upon my review of your explanation, the OIG is granting your fee waiver. For purposes of OIG-2014-00003, you have been categorized as a “news media requester.” As such, you are charged fees for document duplication, except that the first 100 pages of paper copies (or the equivalent cost thereof if the records are in some other form) will be provided without charge. The OIG will not charge such requesters for document search and review.

Under 43 C.F.R. § 2.15, the OIG is required to categorize each FOIA request based on the amount of time needed to process it. The four categories are: 1) Simple (1 -5 workdays); 2) Normal (6-20 workdays); 3) Complex (21-60 workdays); and 4) Exceptional/Voluminous (60+ workdays). Your request has been placed in the normal track.

The OIG is unable to respond to your request within the time limits established by the FOIA (20-workday period or 30 workdays if an extension is taken), due to a backlog of requests. Please be assured, however, that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents that can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date. However, you may file an appeal for non-response any time after the statutory time limit for responding to your request has passed by writing to the following:

Office of the Solicitor
FOIA Appeals Officer
U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW
MS-6556
Washington, DC 20240
foia.appeals@sol.doi.gov

The FOIA Appeal Officer's facsimile number is 202-208-6677. Your appeal should be filed in accordance with the regulations set out in 43 C.F.R. §§ 2.57-2.64, a copy of which is enclosed.

However, should you need to contact me, my telephone number is 202-219-2069, and the email is foia@doioig.gov.

Sincerely,



Cristal J. Garcia
Government Information Specialist

Enclosure